

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claims 6 (amended)

Claim 7-8 (previously presented)

CLAIMS

6. (amended) A device for securing trousers about a wearer's waist comprising:
- a base plate having an upper surface, a lower surface and two opposing side edges;
 - a pair of inner channels extending from one of the side edges of the base plate to the other of said side edges, each channel including a geared surface therein;
 - a pair of outer channels extending from one of the side edges of the base plate to the other of said side edges, each channel including a geared surface therein;
 - a first belt loop clasp extending from one of said side edges for fastening to a first trouser belt loop, said first clasp including a pair of arms each having teeth disposed thereon, each of said arms of said first clasp received within one of the inner channels with said teeth inter-engaging the geared surface within said inner channel;
 - a second belt loop clasp extending from another of said side edges for fastening to a second trouser belt loop, said second clasp including a pair of arms each having teeth disposed thereon, each of said arms of said second clasp received within one of the outer channels with said teeth of said second clasp inter-engaging the geared surface within said outer channel thereby locking said arms of said first clasp within said inner channel and said arms of said second clasp within said outer channels ~~within said channels~~, whereby compression of each of said arms disengages the teeth of said first clasp and said second clasp from the geared surfaces within said inner channel and said outer channel respectively ~~channels~~ allowing each of said arms to move freely therein.
7. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 6 wherein each of said clasps further includes a hook portion for adhering to a trouser belt loop.
8. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 6 further comprising a design

element on the upper surface of said base plate.

9. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 6 wherein each of said arms include a distal end with a stop member thereon for retaining said arms within said channels.